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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 23 NO. 2 FEB. 1986

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Nov. '85	Dec. '85
Labor Force	244,423	243,091
Employment	225,322	222,966
Unemployment	19,101	20,125
Rate (Raw)	7.8	8.3
Rate (S.A.)	8.3	8.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.60	$13.78
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	45.8	44.7
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.0	6.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.00	$12.13
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.3	44.0
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	326.6	327.4
Denver (Bimonthly)	354.1	
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.6	+3.8

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE NATIONAL SCENE

The number of unemployed throughout the Nation in December remained at over eight million and the civilian unemployment rate stood at 6.9 percent, down only slightly from the November rate of 7.0 percent, seasonally adjusted. The adjusted rate in December, 1984 stood at 7.2 percent.

IN WYOMING

Wyoming's unemployment rate in December (unadjusted) rose in a fairly predicatable manner — from 7.8 percent in November to 8.3 percent in December. The seasonally adjusted rate declined from 8.3 percent in November to 8.1 percent in December. This decline occured because the December gain in the unadjusted unemployment rate (0.5 percent) was slightly less than the historical average. Unemployment will probably not peak until January or February, 1986.

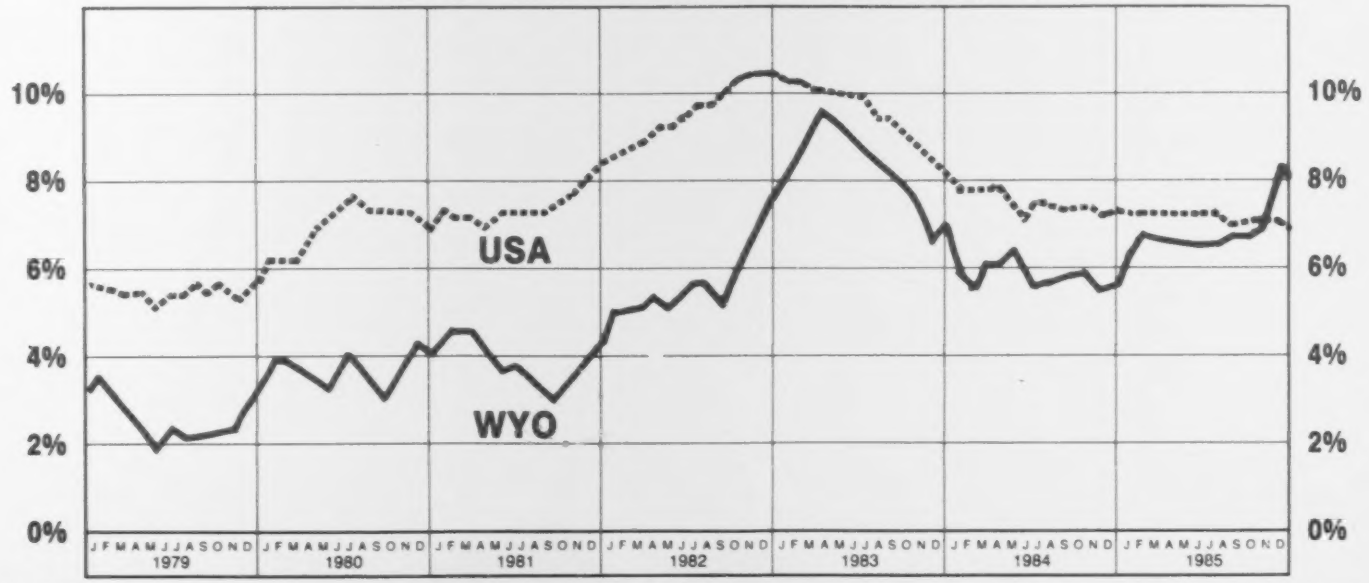
December's labor force in the state was just slightly over 243,000 and continued to show not only a seasonal downturn, but a year-to-year loss, as well.

COUNTY TRENDS

Percentage wise, Sublette County has taken the lead in increased labor force over the year, followed closely by Lincoln County.

Fremont County again registered the highest annual decline in the labor force, nearly 800, and Natrona County close behind, with a drop of 775. Albany, Park and Sheridan counties also suffered substantial losses.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

NEIGHBORING STATES

November's unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, is the latest data available for other states. Compared to Wyoming's rate of 7.8 percent, only Montana had a higher rate—7.9 percent. The other surrounding states of Idaho, with 7.6 percent, Colorado and Nebraska, with 6.2 percent each, Utah, 6.1, and South Dakota, 5.7 percent, rounded out the regional unemployment picture. As usual, West Virginia, with a rate of 13.6 percent, continued to have the highest unemployment in the Nation, and New Hampshire had the lowest, at 2.6 percent.

WHO'S UNEMPLOYED

According to the latest unemployment insurance claims data, the industrial breakdown of unemployment claims is not suprising. Joblessness is highest in construction (24 percent), followed by mining, which includes oil and gas extraction (about 20 percent), then services and trade. Finance, insurance and real estate and public administration had the lowest percentage of claims, just two percent each.

On an average week in December, 1985 there were more than 7,000 claims for unemployment insurance benefits filed with the Employment Security Commission. Of that number, about 1,100 filed each week were new claims.

"HIGH-TECH" IN WYOMING

Much has been said recently about diversifying Wyoming's economy. Many have pointed to tourism as a means to flatten the "highs" and "lows" of Wyoming's energy related economy. Other analysts have suggested developing high-technology in the Cowboy state. A recent article in the ***Economic Review*** entitled "High-Technology Development in the Tenth District" looked at "high-tech", here are some of the results.

Wyoming has fewer than 500 high-technology jobs, and more than half of them are in chemical firms. Employment in high-technology industries in Wyoming fell by a third from the first quarter of 1978 to the second quarter of 1984. Only the electrical and electronic equipment category was employment growth strong in Wyoming. Jobs were lost in all other high-technology categories.

For the nation as a whole, employment in the high-technology industries grew 13.6 percent during the 1978-1984 period, while total manufacturing employment declined 3.1 percent and total nonagricultural employment grew 12.5 percent. In the United States, the greatest numbers of "high-tech" jobs were found in chemical firms and electrical and electronic equipment firms. Guided missiles and space vehicles showed the greatest growth with an 80.2 percent increase in employees.

While employment growth in high-technology has proven to be an important economic aid to the nation, Wyoming has seen a decline in employment and negative growth. The good news is that Wyoming has not been affected greatly by declines in "high-tech" employment due to the industry's small size.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY[1] EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH UNITED STATES AND WYOMING 1978-1984

	WYOMING		UNITED STATES	
INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY	2ND QTR '84 EMPLOYMENT	1ST QTR '78 to 2ND QTR '84 % CHANGE	2ND QTR '84 EMPLOYMENT	1ST QTR '78 to 2ND QTR '84 % CHANGE
Chemicals	271	-22.2	1,050,002	-3.1
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	49	329.4	1,947,013	12.9
Instruments	60	-44.5	636,495	11.6
Ordnance	*	*	57,611	31.2
Office and Computing machines	*	*	526,920	58.7
Aircraft	47	-5.3	589,700	16.9
Guided Missiles and Space Vehicles	0	0	83,494	80.2
Miscellaneous Transportation Equipment	59	-9.7	52,918	-21.9
Total High-Technology Employment	486	-33.9	5,354,664	13.6
Manufacturing Employment		-12.0		-3.1
Total nonagricultural Employment		14.3		12.5

Source: ES-202 data

*Not disclosable. Fewer than three firms.

[1] High technology is used in this article to mean manufacturing industries that share the common characteristics of substantial scientific activity and technical innovation. Two measures of scientific activity and technology innovation are used: spending on research and development relative to sales, and employment of scientific, engineering, and technical workers relative to the total work force. Using both criteria, high technology industries were identified and include the above listed industrial categories.

WYOMING THIRD QUARTER PERSONAL INCOME UP 3.7 PERCENT

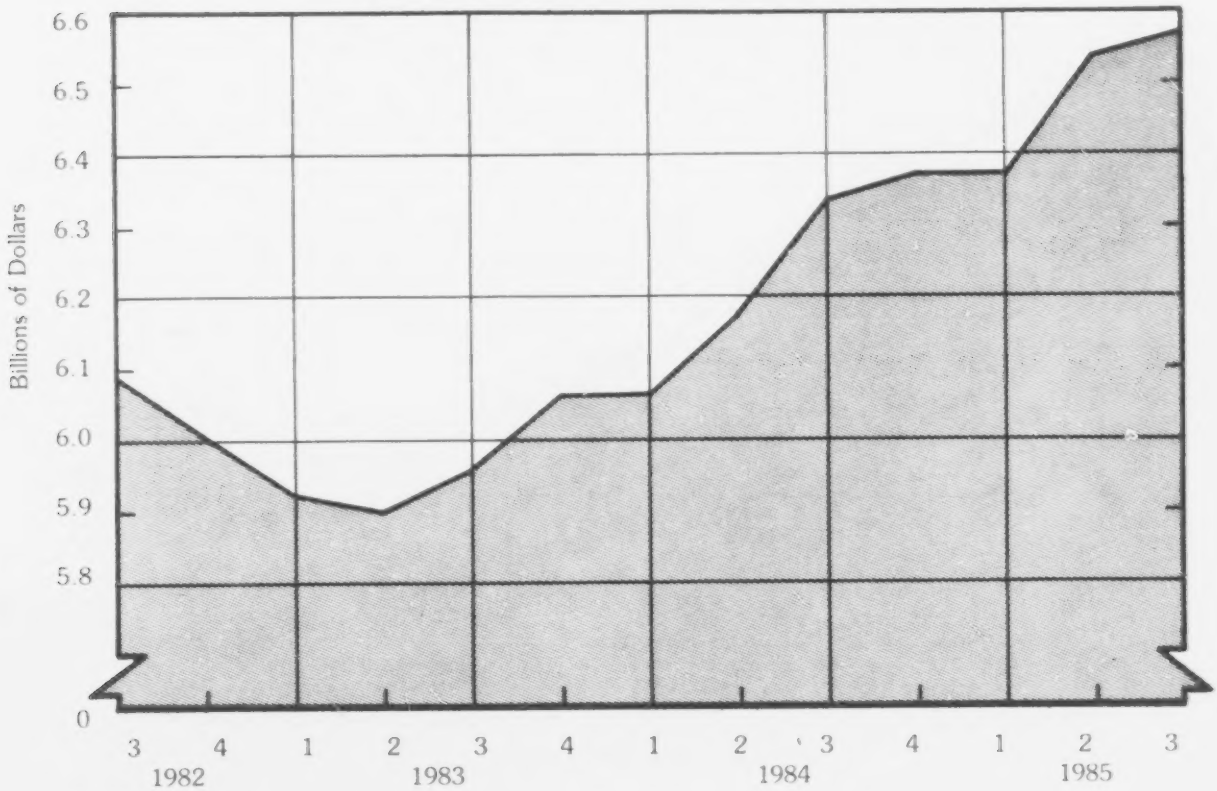
According to a recent U.S. Department of Commerce release, Wyoming posted an annual gain of 3.7 percent in nonfarm personal income in the third quarter of 1985. This compared to a 5.6 percent gain for the nation. In Wyoming, comparing the third quarter to second quarter, income was up 0.5 percent. This gain ranked the Cowboy state near the bottom, 41st in percentage increases. The U.S. was up 1.1 percent over second quarter, while the largest gain, 2.1 percent, occurred in New Hampshire. Mississippi ranked 50th with a -2.0 percent decrease in nonfarm personal income.

The largest source of personal income in Wyoming, in the third quarter of this and last year, was government and government enterprises. Compare this with 1978-1982 when mining contributed the most in wage and salary disbursements.

Wyoming's payrolls declined 5.5 percent in manufacturing and 13.0 percent in construction from the third quarter to the second quarter of 1985. Mining (2.3), trade and services (0.5), and government (4.4) all posted increases for the same period.

The following graph represents the current trend in nonfarm personal income. Note that the information given in the graph is seasonally adjusted annual rates.

QUARTERLY NONFARM PERSONAL INCOME SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AT ANNUAL RATES 3RD QTR. 1982 – 3RD QTR. 1985



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, February, 1986.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	ALL URBAN HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
December 1985	327.4	313.2	355.8	272.4	209.0	324.0	414.7
Annual % Change	3.8	2.7	4.3	6.4	2.9	2.6	6.7

Because the Bureau of Labor Statistics no longer has the printing funds required to continue the former format, Wage Earners and Clerical Workers data is not available by specific items.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	DEC 1985 [1]	NOV 1985 [1]	DEC 1984 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	243,091	244,423	244,119	- 0.5	- 0.4
Unemployment	20,125	19,101	13,763	5.4	46.2
Employed Labor Force	222,966	225,322	230,356	- 1.0	- 3.2
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	188,400	189,900	190,228	- 0.8	- 1.0
b. Agriculture[3]	9,901	11,125	10,085	- 11.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	8.3% 8.1%*	7.8% 8.3%*	5.6% 5.6%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.7% 6.9%*	6.7% 7.0%*	7.0% 7.2%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.2%	2.3%	1.8%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 615.97	$ 622.88	$ 590.02	- 1.1	4.4
Average Weekly Hours	44.7	45.8	44.8	- 2.4	- 0.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.78	$ 13.60	$ 13.17	1.3	4.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	30,080	19,931	17,727	50.9	6.97
a. Initial	4,582	4,399	2,665	4.2	71.9
Weeks Compensated	23,357	13,335	14,071	75.2	66.0
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 3,621,320	$ 2,028,815	$ 1,850,185	78.5	95.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 154.73	$ 151.41	$ 130.82	2.2	18.3
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,273	4,479	2,572	- 26.9	27.3
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,705	3,542	2,213	- 23.6	22.2
Non-Ag. Placements	2,598	3,428	2,131	- 24.2	21.9
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 533.72	$ 519.60	$ 515.97	2.7	3.4
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	43.3	44.1	1.6	- 0.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.13	$ 12.00	$ 11.70	1.1	3.7
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	327.4	326.6	315.5	0.2	3.8
Producer Prices, All Commodities	310.2	309.7	309.8	0.2	0.1
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	313.2	311.0	305.1	0.7	2.7

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	DEC 1985	NOV 1985	DEC 1984	%CHANGE NOV-DEC	%CHANGE DEC-DEC	DEC 1985	NOV 1985	DEC 1984	DEC 1985	NOV 1985	DEC 1984
Statewide	243,091	244,423	244,119	- 0.5	- 0.4	20,125	19,101	13,763	8.3	7.8	5.6
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									8.1	8.3	5.6
Albany	14,260	14,473	14,901	- 1.5	- 4.3	809	719	613	5.7	5.0	4.1
Big Horn	4,660	4,884	4,780	- 4.6	- 2.5	496	449	309	10.6	9.2	6.5
Campbell	19,089	19,257	18,568	- 0.9	2.8	1,432	1,500	846	7.5	7.8	4.6
Carbon	8,816	8,880	9,061	- 0.7	- 2.7	922	800	580	10.5	9.0	6.4
Converse	6,754	6,785	6,850	- 0.5	- 1.4	683	643	455	10.1	9.5	6.6
Crook	2,611	2,766	2,663	- 5.6	- 2.0	243	255	165	9.3	9.2	6.2
Fremont	15,691	15,815	16,485	- 0.8	- 4.8	1,815	1,604	1,393	11.6	10.1	8.5
Goshen	6,528	6,677	6,664	- 2.2	- 2.0	409	378	306	6.3	5.7	4.6
Hot Springs	2,735	2,790	2,879	- 2.0	- 5.0	198	204	124	7.2	7.3	4.3
Johnson	3,591	3,699	3,631	- 2.9	- 1.1	272	297	121	7.6	8.0	3.3
Laramie	34,824	35,108	34,014	- 0.8	2.4	2,360	2,505	1,604	6.8	7.1	4.7
Lincoln	6,882	7,163	6,026	- 3.9	14.2	661	651	590	9.6	9.1	9.8
Natrona	37,951	37,657	38,726	0.8	- 2.0	3,181	2,895	2,103	8.4	7.7	5.4
Niobrara	1,459	1,578	1,540	- 7.5	- 5.3	164	150	135	11.3	9.5	8.8
Park	12,087	11,718	12,705	3.1	- 4.9	1,010	866	679	8.4	7.4	5.3
Platte	3,944	3,925	4,237	0.5	- 6.9	424	351	257	10.7	8.9	6.1
Sheridan	11,054	11,066	11,553	- 0.1	- 4.3	1,089	962	964	9.9	8.7	8.3
Sublette	2,780	2,912	2,380	- 4.5	16.8	163	172	79	5.9	5.9	3.3
Sweetwater	21,057	21,088	19,572	- 0.1	7.6	1,703	1,665	985	8.1	7.9	5.0
Teton	6,324	5,924	6,542	6.8	- 3.3	523	527	552	8.3	8.9	8.4
Uinta	11,665	11,860	11,607	- 1.6	0.5	948	926	536	8.1	7.8	4.6
Washakie	4,960	5,041	5,130	- 1.6	- 3.3	371	371	201	7.5	7.4	3.9
Weston	3,369	3,355	3,603	0.4	- 6.5	248	209	167	7.4	6.2	4.6
United States									6.7	6.7	7.0
United States -Seasonally adjusted									6.9	7.0	7.2

The ESC wishes to stress that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about one year. On an annual average basis, the accuracy of these estimates may vary from the actual figures by as much as eight percent, plus or minus.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	DEC 1985[2]	NOV 1985[3]	DEC 1984	NOV 1985	DEC 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to DEC 1985	to DEC 1985
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	195.9	197.9	193.7	- 1.0	1.1
Manufacturing	8.5	8.7	8.8	- 2.3	- 3.4
Durable Goods	3.9	4.0	4.2	- 2.5	- 7.1
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.0	2.2
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	187.4	189.2	184.9	- 1.0	1.4
Mining	26.0	26.0	27.1	0.0	- 4.1
Contract Construction	8.2	9.3	10.7	- 11.8	- 23.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	16.2	16.4	15.5	- 1.2	4.5
Railroad Transportation	4.3	4.5	3.1	- 4.4	38.7
Transportation except Railroads	5.6	5.6	5.8	0.0	- 3.4
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.3	6.6	0.0	- 4.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	42.0	42.5	44.2	- 1.2	- 5.0
Wholesale Trade	8.9	9.0	9.1	- 1.1	- 2.2
Retail Trade	33.1	33.6	35.1	- 1.5	- 5.7
Food Stores	5.0	5.0	5.1	0.0	- 2.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.9	5.9	5.9	0.0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	10.3	10.7	11.1	- 3.7	- 7.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	8.0	8.0	- 1.3	0.0
Services	33.3	33.6	29.5	- 0.9	12.9
Personal Services	1.7	1.7	1.9	0.0	- 10.5
Medical & Other Health Services	6.3	6.4	6.2	- 1.6	1.6
Government	53.8	53.4	49.9	0.7	7.8
Federal Government	7.6	7.5	6.1	1.3	24.6
State & Local Government	46.2	45.9	43.8	0.7	5.5
State Government	13.2	13.3	13.0	- 0.8	1.5
Local Government	32.9	32.6	30.8	0.9	6.8

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	DEC 1985[2]	NOV 1985[3]	DEC 1984	NOV 1985	DEC 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to DEC 1985	to DEC 1985
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.3	33.4	34.3	- 0.3	- 2.9
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	31.9	32.1	32.9	- 0.6	- 3.0
Mining	4.4	4.5	5.5	- 2.2	- 20.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.1	4.1	5.0	0.0	- 18.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.3	0.4	0.5	- 25.0	- 40.0
Contract Construction	2.5	2.7	2.2	- 7.4	13.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	- 4.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.3	9.4	9.6	- 1.1	- 3.1
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.5	3.7	0.0	- 5.4
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	5.9	0.0	- 1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	- 11.8
Services	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8
Government	6.5	6.3	6.2	3.2	4.8
Federal Government	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	- 28.6
State & Local Government	6.0	5.8	5.5	3.4	9.1
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.5	30.8	29.9	- 1.0	2.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	- 8.3
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.4	29.5	28.7	- 0.3	2.4
Contract Construction	1.0	1.1	1.3	- 9.1	- 23.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.8	4.1	3.3	- 7.3	15.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.1	7.0	7.4	1.4	- 4.1
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	- 11.1
Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	6.5	0.0	- 4.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.2	5.2	5.0	0.0	4.0
Government	10.3	10.2	9.8	1.0	5.1
Federal Government	2.7	2.6	2.4	3.8	12.5
State & Local Government	7.6	7.6	7.4	0.0	2.7

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag, establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Dick Sadler, Executive Director.

Please send comments, questions or address changes to Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Research and Analysis Section, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602, Ph. (307) 235-3643.

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